

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendment responds to the July 29, 2003, office action.

Claims 1 through 7 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended by this response. Support for this amendment is found in Figures 3, 4, and 5 of the application and on page 3 at lines 14 through 19 of the specification. No new matter is added by this amendment.

The applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting an interview with the applicant's attorney on October 24, 2003. Claim 1 is amended in accordance with comments exchanged during the interview.

1. Rejection of Claims 1 through 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejects claims 1 through 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), stating that the claims are anticipated U.S. Patent Number 5,191,697 to Sakamoto et al. The applicant traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration.

The Sakamoto et al. patent discloses two embodiments. The first embodiment includes two flat knitted tinsel wires 2H that are sewn in parallel onto one face of the damper raw material 1F. (See the Sakamoto et al. patent in column 3 at lines 66 through 68 and in Figures 2 and 3.) The damper raw material 1F is then thermally molded to make the woven cloth F have concentric corrugation. (See the Sakamoto et al. patent in column 4 at lines 27 through 40.) The first embodiment of the Sakamoto et al. patent therefore fails to disclose a whisker that intermittently penetrates through the damper casing between a first surface and a second surface of said damper casing, an intermittent air space between the whisker and the damper casing, and a fastening string attaching the whisker at the air space location as recited in claim 1. The second embodiment of the Sakamoto et al. patent includes a predetermined amount of copper wires 2C or tinsel wires 2B that are interleaved into the woven cloth at predetermined positions. (See the Sakamoto et al. patent in column 4 at lines 61 through 65 and Figures 8 and 9.) The woven cloth is then thermally molded to make the woven cloth have concentric corrugation as in the first embodiment. (See the Sakamoto et al. patent in column 4 at line 65 through column 5 at line 2.) The second embodiment of the Sakamoto et al. patent therefore fails to disclose an intermittent air space between the whisker and the damper casing and a fastening string attaching the whisker at the air space location as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner is required to support a rejection based upon claim anticipation with a citation that discloses each and every claimed element. The Sakamoto et al. patent fails to disclose each and every claimed element of the applicant's claimed invention as discussed above. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

2. Conclusion

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul D. Elliott Reg. No. 30,754
for Robert C. Faber
Registration No.: 24,322
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700

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